February 25, 1969

PERSONAL

ST-103 62-97301-488
REC 16

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MOHR
MR. CALLAHAN
MR. GALE
MR. ROSEN
MR. SULLIVAN

Reference is made to my prior memoranda which transmitted to you the names of persons who are not to be interviewed unless compelling reasons dictate, in which event the matter should be called to my attention.

Attached is identifying data regarding Charles L. Bartlett, concerning whom these instructions apply.

ENCLOSURE

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAILED 10
FEB 25 1969
COMM-FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE -28-88 BY SP1 AGJ
278308

Enclosure
10 copies of attachment sent to Mr. Gale
10 copies of attachment sent to Mr. Rosen
2 copies of attachment sent to Mr. Sullivan
2 copies of attachment sent to Mr. Callahan

NOTE: See M. A. Jones to Bishop memo dated 2/24/69, captioned, "Charles L. Bartlett, Washington Correspondent, Chicago Sun-Times, Article Regarding Director, Person Not to Be Contacted."

TDH:paa
(8)

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

51 MAR 12 1969

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

February 25, 1969

NAME	Charles L. Bartlett
PROFESSION	Columnist Chicago Sun-Times
ADDRESS	(Office) National Press Building Washington, D. C. (Residence) 4615 W Street Northwest Washington, D. C.

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ENCLOSURE

62-[illegible]-458

Tolson ____
DeLoach ____
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Gale ____
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Sullivan ____
Tavel ____
Trotter ____
Tele. Room ____
Holmes ____
Gandy ____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

0-19 (Rev. 7-17-68)

Tolson ______
DeLoach ______
Mohr ______
Bishop ______
Casper ______
Callahan ______
Conrad ______
Felt ______
Gale ______
Rosen ______
Sullivan ______
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Trotter ______
Tele. Room ______
Holmes ______
Gandy ______

CHARLES BARTLETT A-8

Fresh Leadership Needed in FBI

J. Edgar Hoover's stout denial that he has any plans to retire at the age of 75 was apparently no put-on. Associates in the FBI report that he gives every sign of intending to stay there forever.

There is after all no magic in a 75th birthday. Another veteran, Lt. Gen. Lewis Hershey, is cheerfully presiding over the Selective Service System although he is well into his 76th year.

The success of these two men at institutionalizing themselves is a phenomenon which defies the rationality of their extended service, blunts the harpoons of their critics, and leaves their agencies in the suspended state that afflicts all organizations in which the health and egos of strong old men become controlling factors.

★

This is not a problem which presidents, for political reasons, have been willing to face. It is not a problem which Congress, with its entrenched deference towards age, is capable of facing. It is not a problem which raises issues pointed or poignant enough to stimulate national emotions.

And yet the phenomenon is unmistakably a problem because it obstructs the flexibility of the government in two critical areas, crime and the draft and inhibits the application of new approaches at a time when a need for fresh concepts is strikingly apparent.

The delicate diplomacy required for working with Hoover has been attested by the fact that only one of the past three attorney generals, Nicholas Katzenbach, has managed to establish cordial relations. Hoover actively and undisguisedly disliked Robert Kennedy and Ramsey Clark and his attitude yielded no deference to the fact that he was legally their subordinate.

★

This incompatibility had inevitable consequences in the early efforts to involve the FBI in civil rights investigations, an activity which Hoover resisted on grounds that it would damage agents stationed in the South, as well as in the frustration of the campaign to coordinate the focus of the federal enforcement agencies upon organized crime.

Hoover's emergence as a sacred Buddha is not hard to trace. He has managed his agency so impeccably and aired its achievements so brilliantly for so long that a succession of presidents have chosen to grasp his coattails. John Kennedy after the 1960 election accepted advice that he rename Hoover as his first act in order to reassure the public. Lyndon Johnson kept him because he admired his success at keeping the FBI out of trouble. Richard Nixon declared he would retain Hoover as a political gambit in the preconvention period.

★

Current speculation is that Hoover and the new Attorney General, John Mitchell, will get on well but the record suggests this can only be accomplished on Hoover's terms. The question is whether these terms will jibe with Mitchell's blueprint for more effective law enforcement.

Another question is whether Hoover remains pertinent as a symbol at a time when every possible persuasion must be brought to bear against the lawless mood. The gangbuster of the thirties is now an elderly bureaucrat no longer glorified by columnists like Walter Winchell. Is it not perhaps time to rally sentiment to the side of the white hats with a younger and more striking figure?

Certainly the impact of fresh leadership is needed within the FBI. A chief steeped beyond reach in his own pride and traditions necessarily exerts a deadening impact, particularly upon the able, ambitious lieutenants who vie to succeed him. Staleness inevitably penetrates an agency held so tightly by a man whose prime has passed.

It is not pleasant to urge retirement upon men with such heavy claims on public gratitude. But it is not practical to permit vanity to create anachronisms at a time when the government faces many tests.

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The Washington Post Times Herald ______
The Washington Daily News ______
The Evening Star (Washington) A-8
The Sunday Star (Washington) ______
Daily News (New York) ______
Sunday News (New York) ______
New York Post ______
The New York Times ______
The Sun (Baltimore) ______
The Daily World ______
The New Leader ______
The Wall Street Journal ______
The National Observer ______
People's World ______
Examiner (Washington) ______

FEB 18 1969
Date ______

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DATE 1-28-88 BY SP[illegible]

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DUPE

62-9[illegible]-01-47[illegible]

M. A. Jones to Bishop Memo
RE: CHARLES L. BARTLETT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DETAILS:

In the Washington Evening Star of 2/18/69, an article appeared by columnist Charles Bartlett entitled "Fresh Leadership Needed in FBI" (copy of which is attached). In his article, columnist Bartlett discusses the advisability of the Director heading the FBI in view of his age, and, in effect, implies that the Director should retire.

The current edition of "Who's Who" indicates that Charles L. Bartlett, born 8/14/21, Chicago, Illinois, who resides at 4615 W Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C., has been a columnist with the Chicago Sun-Times since 1963. Prior to this he was the Washington correspondent for the Chattanooga Times. A graduate of Yale University, Bartlett received a Pulitzer Prize for reporting in 1955.

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

Our files indicate Bartlett has over the past several years had numerous contacts with Soviet and bloc diplomats in connection with his assignments in the news media field. [redacted] (U) b7E

[redacted] that between 1943 and 1948 Bartlett had 17 traffic violations in Washington, D. C., with fines ranging from $3 to $10.

[redacted] (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DETAILS - CONTINUED OVER

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Bufiles further reflect that Bartlett was a personal friend of the late President John F. Kennedy.

[redacted] b7E

[redacted] (U)

Bufiles also reflect that in 1958 a representative of the Chattanooga Times attempted to make an appointment for himself and Bartlett to visit the Director. The Director's heavy schedule, however, precluded him from making such an appointment.

In 1967, a confidential source advised that [redacted] b7D b7E

[redacted]

[redacted] (U)

[redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 08-16-2022 BY: [redacted]

5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Bishop
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

b6
b7C

[redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : Mr. Bishop DATE: 2/19/69

FROM : M. A. Jones

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE~~

SUBJECT: CHARLES L. BARTLETT
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT
CHICAGO SUN-TIMES
ARTICLE REGARDING DIRECTOR

~~Classified by SMA CJC~~
~~Declassify on: OADR~~
278308 1-28-88 MAG/mc

O Persons not to be Contacted without Bureau approval:

SYNOPSIS:

An article by Charles Bartlett, a columnist, appearing in the Washington Evening Star of 2/18/69, discusses the advisability of the Director heading the FBI in view of his age and, in effect, implies that the Director should retire. Bartlett, a columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times since 1963 and who presently resides in Washington, was, prior to this employment, the Washington correspondent of the Chattanooga Times. Bufiles reflect that over the past several years Bartlett has had numerous contacts with Soviet and bloc diplomats in connection with his assignments in the news media field. [redacted] Bufiles further reflect that Bartlett was a personal friend of former President John F. Kennedy. [redacted] In 1967, a confidential source advised [redacted] In October of 1968, a confidential source advised [redacted]

b3
b6
b7C
b7D
b7E

RECOMMENDATION:

Place on "do not contact" list. H

He tried to cut things off! T

None. For information.

Enclosure

DETAILS-CONTINUED OVER

1 - Mr. DeLoach 1 - Mr. Bishop 1 - Mr. Sullivan

TDH:paa/cle (6)

Placed on do not contact list 2-24-69

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

CRIME RESEARCH

MAR 10 1969

ENCLOSURE

COPY FILED IN